


REMARKS

Claims 11 - 13 are now pending in the present application. Application requests that this amendment be entered before further examination of the case.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (503) 222-3613 if it appears an interview would be helpful in advancing this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE
IN THE CLAIMS**

The claims have been amended as follows:

11. (Amended) A method for suspending a recorder from a neck of a user using a device that comprises a strap and a ring attached to the strap, the recorder comprising a lower section and an upper section joined at a juncture point, the recorder having a distal end belonging to the lower section and a proximate end belonging to the upper section, the recorder further having a mouthpiece at the proximate end, the upper section having a diameter that increases gradually from the juncture point to the mouthpiece, [the ring having an inner diameter larger than the diameter of the upper section at the juncture point, the inner diameter further being smaller than the diameter of the upper section at the mouthpiece,] the method comprising the steps of:

sizing the ring to have an inner diameter at least as large as the diameter of the upper section at the juncture point, and further sizing the inner diameter of the ring to be smaller than the diameter of the upper section at the mouthpiece;

suspending the strap from the neck of the user;

pulling the recorder apart at the juncture point, thereby separating the lower section from the upper section;

then inserting through the ring an end of the upper section that is associated with the juncture point and is opposite to the proximate end, and then sliding the ring towards the mouthpiece, the ring thereby becoming lodged; and

then reconnecting the lower and upper sections at the juncture point.

12. (Amended) A method for suspending a recorder from a neck of a user using a device that comprises a strap and a ring attached to the strap, the recorder comprising a lower section and an upper section joined at a juncture point, the recorder having a distal end belonging to the lower section and a proximate end belonging to the upper section, the recorder further having a mouthpiece at the proximate end, the upper section having a diameter that increases gradually from the juncture point to the mouthpiece, [the ring having an inner diameter larger than the diameter of the upper section at the juncture point, the inner diameter further being smaller than the diameter of the upper section at the mouthpiece,] the method comprising the steps of:

sizing the ring to have an inner diameter at least as large as the diameter of the upper

section at the juncture point, and further sizing the inner diameter of the ring to be smaller than the diameter of the upper section at the mouthpiece;

suspending the strap from the neck of the user;

pulling the recorder apart at the juncture point, thereby separating the lower section from the upper section; and

then inserting through the ring an end of the upper section that is associated with the juncture point and is opposite to the proximate end, and then sliding the ring towards the mouthpiece, the ring thereby becoming lodged.

13. The method of claim 12, further comprising reconnecting the lower and upper sections at the juncture point.

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